Closure of Sick Units

3639. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and inadequate staff in the official liquidators office attached to various High Courts are clogging the process of closing the sick industrial units thus blocking the exist policy of the Government; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to accelerate the process of closing sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) No, Sir. Under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 an employer is required to apply to the appropriate Government at least ninety days before the date f intended closure. If the appropriate Government does not communicate the Order granting or refusing to grant permission within a period of sixty days from the date of the application, the permission applied for shall be deemed to have been granted on the expiration of the said period of sixty days.

(b) Does not arise.

Losses by Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited

3640. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated loss sustained by the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited as per latest figures;

(b) the causes for such losses;

(c) whether paper products including paper board and newsprint worth Rs. 45 crores are lying unsold with the Corporation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures proposed to dispose of the unsold stock of paper and paper products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Accumulated loss upto February, 1992 is Rs. 387 crore (provisional and unaudited).

(b) Infrastructural and operational problems relating mainly to power, transportation and manpower.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Fall in orders from State Government due to paucity of funds, tight money market position leading to slow off take by bulk purchasers and availability of cheaper variety of imported newsprint.

(e) Credit facility and other incentives to bulk consumers.

Closure of HMT Repair Shops

3641. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of privatisation of its sales activities, the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited (HMT) has closed its watch repair counter in its show room located in Parliament Street, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for handing over such remunerative business to the private sector;

(c) whether the Government are aware that these so called authorised sales and service agents in the capital are charging very exorbitant and fantastic rates for even petty repairs/jobs; and